

The John D. Berdan House  
465 Maywood Avenue  
Borough of Maywood, Bergen County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The John D. Berdan House  
465 Maywood Avenue  
Borough of Maywood, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: (and occupant) Mary Taplin

Date of Erection: About 1819-1825

Architect: Unknown

Builder: John D. Berdan (1749-1819) or his son  
David Berdan (1736-1852)

Present Condition: Original, well maintained

Number of Stories: Two and one-half, and cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - red sandstone in formal  
coursed ashlar on front and ends,  
rubble on rear, to eaveline all around;  
clapboarded frame gable ends

Interior walls - stone party wall and  
frame partitions

Chimneys - brick, built into inside of  
gable end walls

Roof - gable, with modern asphalt over  
original wood shingles

Historical Data:

In an account published in 1882, it is  
said that one "David Berdan(a) on Red Hill near  
Hackensack died and left his farm to his son John

(a) David Berdan, a descendant of that John Berdan Jr.  
(of Huguenot extraction) who came from Holland with his  
parents to New Amsterdam and settled in Kings County,  
L.I., whence he removed to Hackensack, N.J., having  
purchased (in 1697?) a tract there extending from  
Hackensack River to Saddle River, in what became the  
center of town. See "Old Land Lines in Hackensack",  
publ. 1908 in "Papers and Proceedings of the Bergen  
County Historical Society", V, 9.

who at his death left it to his sons David, Albert, Daniel, and Peter (of whom) David continued on the farm until his death (in 1852) and his descendants reside on it still"(b). That farm is evidently the one on a small part of which stands the house here surveyed, as determined by title traced in the County records to one John D. Berdan(c) deceased in 1819, as appears hereafter.

The last named is identified as that Jan (John) baptized in the Reformed Dutch Church of Hackensack, 23 November 1749, eldest son of David Berdan and his wife Cristyntje Romein(d). Accordingly, he would inherit the paternal homestead as above stated. Contemporary evidence of this however is lacking, probate on the estate of his father David Berdan, or subsequent recital of title, not being found in Bergen County records.

By his wife Osseltje Van Voorhees, John D. Berdan abovesaid had these children baptized at Hackensack: Antei 10 March 1782, Christina 9 May 1784, David 25 May 1786, Annatic 20 April 1788, Maria 23 May 1790, Albert 28 November 1792, Daniel 26 December 1794, and Isaac 16 July 1797(d).

In the division of the 165 acre tract in New Barbadoes Township(e) of John D. Berdan, deceased, among his eleven children as reported to the Orphans' Court of Bergen County by the Commissioners on 4 April

(b) Clayton and Nelson, History of Bergen and Passaic, N. J. (1882), p. 394

(c) Under the Dutch system of nomenclature, a son's middle initial was that of his father's given name.

(d) Records of the Reformed Dutch Churches of Hackensack and Schraalenburgh, N.J., publ. 1891, 2 vols., indexed

(e) Part of this township was set off in 1871 as Midland Township, and the settlement there then known as Maywood was incorporated a borough in 1894, in which this house is located.

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1819, lot No. 5, containing 27 acres (on part of which stands the homestead here considered) was awarded to a son, David Berdan. In the report this lot is described as L-shaped, having a frontage of some 1029 feet on the northwest side of the "Public Road" (Maywood Ave.) and 580 feet on the southwest side of "Paramus Road" at their intersection, with a 2315 foot rear extension along the southwest line of the lot 448 feet wide.

David Berdan, abovenamed, born 30 April 1786, evidently built this house (its design and details being of the 1820 period) and died there between 20 February 1851 and 15 December 1852, the dates of signing and of proving his will in which he devised the same 27 acre homestead lot to his son, Albert Berdan, after the death or remarriage of the wife Abigail, and desired occupancy of the house by his daughters Christina and Rachel as long as unmarried.

Albert Berdan the son and devisee mortgaged the property to Adonjah S. Boyd of Hackensack who later took title by sheriff's deed of 14 November 1877 subsequent to foreclosure proceedings.

Adonjah S. Boyd abovesaid, being still of Hackensack, and hence not residing in the house thus acquired, with wife Fanny gave deed of 25 February 1879 conveying the same 27 acres (with the house here considered) to Mary Taplin of South Amboy, for \$15,000, who took possession at that time and remains resident at the date of our survey 1940. The tax list filed by the Borough of Maywood 1939 describes this property

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as having a frontage of 215 feet on Maywood Avenue and extending back 250 feet to a 175 foot frontage on Oak Avenue, bounded on the northeast by the property of the Lutheran Church.

Bibliography:

A search of title in Bergen County Land and Probate records by Joseph Benenati, H.A.B.S. abstractor

*Leuris D. Cook*

Supervising Historian

Approved:

*Seymour Williams*

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District Officer

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